

passionate, as are all the people across the State of Wyoming. The Federal Government should not be picking the pockets of States to balance the Federal budget. I am not talking about Federal commitments to spending programs; I am talking about a Federal commitment to share revenue; specifically, revenue generated from mineral resource development.

The Presiding Officer is very familiar with this. He knows, as do I, that States with Federal mineral extraction benefit from economic development. He also knows these benefits are not generated without significant impacts to local infrastructure and to public services. These revenues pay for vital State and local government services. Revenue sharing has traditionally been a clear 50-50 division. It is a division between the States and the Federal Government. In fact, current Federal law

prohibits Federal administrative deductions.

Apparently, that prohibition is not enough. In the fiscal year 2008 omnibus bill, Congress included a 1-year formula change, reducing the amount paid to the States and increasing the amount flowing to the Federal Treasury. The lost revenue for the States came at the expense of funding for local schools, roads, water systems, and other basic services provided by the States.

I am pleased to join my colleague from Wyoming, Senator MIKE ENZI, in cosponsoring his budget amendment that addresses this Federal grab. I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to join me in this as a matter of principle. I have listened to speeches on this floor all week advocating for increases for one program or for another. Senator ENZI's amendment simply recognizes that States—not Wash-

ington—are capable and are well suited to make spending decisions.

State legislatures can provide, if they want to, more for education, highways, and law enforcement. But they cannot make these decisions if the Federal Government continues to withhold the State's share of these revenues.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support Senator ENZI's amendment. I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:15 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate now stands adjourned until 10:15 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 10:15 a.m.